

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad comprising:  
digit protective means for protecting ~~to~~ the fingers of a user from jamming, said digit protective means sized and positioned such that, when installed on a hand, all four fingers of the hand can curl around and grasp the digit protective means,

palm and wrist protective means for protecting substantially the entire palmar surface of  
the palm and wrist of a user from abrasion and hyper-extension,

digit engagement means for attaching said finger, palm and wrist protective pad to the  
fingers of a user's hand,

wrist engagement means for attaching said finger palm and wrist protective pad to the  
wrist of a user, and

first securing means for securing said wrist engagement means to said palm and wrist  
protective means, and

second securing means for securing said wrist engagement means in a closed state.

2. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist  
protective pad, as defined in claim 1, wherein:

said palm and wrist protective means comprises a pad having a first side for facing away  
from the palm of a wearer and a second side for facing toward the palm of a wearer, a digit end  
and a wrist end, said pad formed to substantially conform to the shape of a human palm and

wrist, and

said digit protective means comprises a dowel, said dowel being enclosed in a sleeve formed in said digit end of said leather pad, said sleeve being formed by said pad being rolled such that said first side is exterior said roll and said digit end is attached to said pad along a line proximate said digit end of said pad.

3. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 2, wherein said pad is formed of leather.

4. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 3, wherein said dowel further comprises a foam dowel.

5. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 2 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein said digit end of said ~~leather~~ pad is permanently attached to a portion of said first side of said ~~leather~~ pad, thereby forming said sleeve.

6. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 2, wherein said palm and wrist protective means further comprises a foam pad attached to said second side of said ~~leather~~ pad proximate said wrist end of said ~~leather~~ pad.

7. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 6, wherein said foam pad is permanently attached to said ~~leather~~ pad.

8. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 6, wherein said digit engagement means comprises a loop of material attached to said sleeve at a point on said sleeve substantially opposite said line of attachment of said ~~sleeve~~ digit end of said pad to said first side of said pad, said loop adapted to slide over at least one finger of a user's hand to surround said at least one finger near to where said at least one finger joins the palm of the user's hand.

9. (ORIGINAL) A athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 8, wherein said loop is of an elastic material, thereby facilitating easy entrance of the fingers of a user's hand entering said loop.

10. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 8, wherein said wrist engagement means comprises a strap, said strap attached to said first side of said ~~leather~~ pad by said first securing means, transverse said ~~leather~~ pad, proximate said wrist end of said ~~leather~~ pad, said strap having a first side and a second side, a first end and a second end, said first securing means comprising means for enabling said strap to be removably attached to said pad at any of a plurality of distances from said dowel, thereby allowing adjustability of said finger, palm and wrist protective pad to be sized to fit a particular palm length of a user .

11. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 10, wherein said strap is formed of leather.

12.(NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 10 ~~11~~, wherein said first securing means comprises hook and loop fastener, a first of said hook and loop fastener elements being affixed to said first side of said leather pad and a second of said hook and loop fastener elements being affixed to the second side interior of said wrist strap.

13. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 10, wherein said second securing means comprises a buckle attached at said first end of said strap.

14. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 13, wherein said buckle is formed of at least one material selected from the group consisting of metal and plastic.

15. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 14, wherein said second securing means further comprises hook and loop fastener attached to said first side of said strap, said hook fastener attached proximate ~~said leather pad~~ one of said ends of said strap and said loop fastener attached proximate the other of said ends ~~said second end~~ of said strap, such that, after passing ~~th rough~~ through said buckle, said strap is secured by attaching said loop fastener ~~and~~ to said hook fastener.

16. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad comprising:

a ~~leather~~ pad having a first side for facing away from the palm of a wearer and a second side for facing toward the palm of a wearer, a digit end and a wrist end, said pad formed to substantially conform to the shape of a human palm and wrist and sized and shaped to cover substantially the entire palmar surface of a wearer's palm and wrist,

said digit end of said ~~leather~~ pad being rolled such that said first side is exterior said roll and said digit end is permanently attached to a portion of said first side of said ~~leather~~ pad along a line proximate said digit end of said ~~leather~~ pad, thereby forming a sleeve, and

a ~~foam~~ dowel, said dowel housed within said sleeve formed in said ~~leather~~ pad, said ~~foam~~ dowel and said sleeve forming a rounded forward edge of said ~~leather~~ pad, said dowel and sleeve sized and positioned such that, when installed on a hand, all four fingers of the hand can curl around and grasp the sleeve enclosed dowel, and

a foam pad attached to said second side of said ~~leather~~ pad proximate said wrist end of said ~~leather~~ pad;

a loop of elastic material attached to said sleeve at a point on said sleeve opposite said line of attachment of said ~~sleeve~~ digit end of said pad to said first side of said pad, said loop adapted to slide over at least one finger of a user's hand; and

a wrist strap, said wrist strap attached to said first side of said ~~leather~~ pad, transverse said ~~leather~~ pad, proximate said wrist end of said ~~leather~~ pad, said strap having a first side and a second side, a first end and a second end, said wrist strap being ~~moveably~~ removably attached to said ~~leather~~ pad at any of a variety of distances from said dowel by hook and ~~eye~~ loop fastener,

a buckle attached at said first end of said strap, and

hook and loop fastener attached to said first side of said strap, said hook fastener attached

proximate ~~said leather pad~~ one of said ends of said strap and said loop fastener attached proximate the other of said ends ~~said second end~~ of said strap, such that, after passing through said buckle, said strap is secured by attaching said loop fastener ~~and~~ to said hook fastener;

wherein, when said athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad is in use:

said ~~leather pad~~ provides ~~being adapted to provide~~ protection against abrasion to a user's hands from contact with the ground and hyper-extension of the wrist during a slide with hands extended, ~~and~~

said ~~foam~~ dowel and said sleeve provide ~~being adapted to provide~~ additional padding and a rounded edge graspable by the fingers of a player, thereby preventing jamming of the fingers, abrasions and bruising and the entry of debris under a leading edge of said ~~leather~~ pad during a slide,

said elastic loop secures ~~being adapted to secure~~ said pad around the fingers of a user's hand,

said wrist strap secures ~~adapted to secure~~ said pad around the wrist of a user, and

said removable attachment of said wrist strap to said ~~leather~~ pad provides ~~providing~~ adjustment of a distance between said ~~foam~~ dowel and said wrist strap, thereby allowing compensation for differing palm lengths of different users.